

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: De Haan, et al.

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Atty. Docket: 0264-0002

For: Biodegradable Middle Distillates and  
Production Thereof

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant herewith respectfully requests the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1 of the international application, please substitute the last paragraph with the following:

The prior art teaches in ZA 96/9890 that high biodegradability of hydrocarbon base oils could be derived from the presence of predominantly mono-methyl branching on the paraffinic carbon backbone. US 5,498,596 discloses a non-toxic, biodegradable well fluid comprising 98% (mass) n-paraffins and less than 1% (mass) monocyclic aromatics as well as other olefinic components. The biodegradability of the well fluid in the US patent can not be related back to the nature of the paraffinic molecules due to the fact that biodegradability is enhanced through branching and not through linear n-paraffinic molecules. Further, WO 92/14804 discloses a low aromatic diesel fuel which comprises mainly a mixture of hydrocarbons containing not more than 1% by volume of

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